



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112  
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending September 19, 2010      Issued weekly, April-November      Released September 20, 2010, 4 pm  
*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** The weather conditions for many counties across the state this week are still experiencing drought like conditions, there have been a few scattered showers, and the cooler temperatures are allowing for pleasant days in the field. Crop harvesting is in full swing around the state with some counties nearing completion of their corn silage harvest and others already pass the halfway mark with their apple crops. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were harvesting vegetables, apples, corn silage, preparing for fall seedings, and still searching for a solution to the stink bug problem. Fall plowing continued, and is now 29% complete, slightly behind of 32% last year, and behind the five year average of 35%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 19, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
27	31	41	1

**Crop Progress:** Corn is estimated to be 92% at the dough stage, ahead of last year's 89%, yet behind the five year average of 96%. Corn is 84% at the dent stage, ahead of 68% from last year and the 82% average. Corn is 47% mature, ahead of 17% from a year ago, and ahead of the 43% average. Corn harvested is at 16%, ahead of the 5% from a year ago and the 12% average. Corn silage is 78% harvested, ahead of 41% last year and the 62% average. Barley is 42% planted, ahead of last year's 22%, and the average of 27%. Barley emerged is at 10%, ahead of the 6% from a year ago and even with 10% average. The tobacco harvest is 93% completed, ahead of 87% from a year ago and the 89% average. Potatoes are at 43% harvested, behind last year's 69% and the 53% average. The alfalfa fourth cutting is at 82% completed, ahead of 40% a year ago, and the 51% average. The apples are 61% harvested, above last year's 47%, and the average of 46%. The grape harvest has begun, and is 15% completed.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 19% poor, 21% fair, 43% good, and 12% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 5% very poor, 14% poor, 19% fair, 50% good, and 12% excellent. The quality of hay made is 1% very poor, 6% poor, 15% fair, 47% good, and 31% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 27% very poor, 19% poor, 40% fair, 11% good and 3% excellent.

**Nationwide as of September 12, 2010:** Remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine brought much needed rain to parts of Arkansas,

Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Most notably in Texas, many areas of the State received up to 6 inches of rainfall with the south central areas receiving up to 10 inches of precipitation. Rainfall in these States will help replenish soil moisture supplies that have been depleted by recent hot and dry weather. Despite the presence of this storm system, temperatures were warm for most of the southern States. Elsewhere, the western third of the country and much of the Corn Belt experienced unseasonably cool temperatures. **Corn:** By week's end, 93 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dented stage, 29 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Beneficial growing conditions throughout much of the major corn-producing areas continue to produce rapid crop development. An additional 19 percent of the crop had reached the maturity stage during the week to total 52 percent by week's end. Nationally, maturity development was 40 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Of the 18 major corn-producing States, only Colorado and Texas were behind the 5-year average. Eleven percent of the Nation's crop had been harvested by September 12, eight percentage points ahead of last year and 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. At least half of the corn crop had been harvested in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, with Tennessee the most advanced at 72 percent. Overall, 68 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from both ratings last week and from the same time last year.

**Soybeans:** Nationally, leaves were dropping on 38 percent of the soybean acreage by September 12, twenty-two percentage points ahead of last year and 8 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Leaf drop in Indiana and Kentucky was significantly ahead of normal, at 28 and 33 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average, respectively. Overall, 63 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week and 5 percentage points below the same time last year. **Small Grains:** By week's end, barley producers had harvested 84 percent of this year's crop, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but 8 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Harvest lagged behind normal by 11 percentage points in Idaho and by 24 points in Montana, two of the three largest barley-producing States. Eighty-three percent of the spring wheat crop was harvested by week's end, 16 percentage points ahead of last year but 8 percentage points behind the 5-year average. In Washington, producers were winding down harvest activities while harvest was concluded in South Dakota.

### Weather Data For Week Ending September 19, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 19, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	74	50	61	-3	1.43	2	20.13	-0.98	65	2,944	600	4,562
Franklin	77	46	59	-3	1.34	3	22.59	-0.84	71	2,724	539	4,343
Meadville	77	46	60	-2	0.84	1	22.16	-1.18	77	2,633	630	4,246
Mercer	79	46	61	-2	0.84	1	22.12	-0.19	79	2,753	589	4,383
Springboro	76	44	59	-5	0.82	4	26.57	5.94	76	2,460	146	4,030
Warren	77	45	59	-3	0.32	1	18.05	-5.43	65	2,553	435	4,153
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	70	37	53	-5	0.52	2	21.30	-2.20	71	1,979	437	3,520
Oswayo	72	37	54	-4	0.70	1	22.03	-0.16	74	2,007	308	3,539
Kane	72	38	54	-3	0.76	2	20.84	-3.04	67	1,978	467	3,512
Laporte	72	43	55	-8	0.23	3	19.15	-2.48	76	2,335	167	3,916
Lock Haven	80	48	61	-3	0.62	2	17.64	-3.66	56	2,924	624	4,582
Port Allegany	74	43	57	-2	0.64	2	19.60	-2.59	73	2,223	524	3,784
Renovo	80	46	60	-3	0.34	2	17.58	-3.72	65	2,813	513	4,469
Ridgway	75	40	56	-3	0.68	3	18.98	-4.34	71	2,222	480	3,794
Stevenson Dam	78	45	59	1	0.48	1	17.26	-6.06	60	2,661	919	4,298
Towanda	74	42	57	-5	0.25	3	14.25	-3.75	58	2,546	362	4,167
Wellsboro	75	42	55	-3	0.54	2	18.50	0.44	63	2,125	484	3,703
Williamsport	81	47	61	-3	0.26	2	16.83	-4.13	58	3,204	669	4,892
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	73	40	56	-4	0.88	3	20.53	0.07	59	2,310	434	3,894
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	46	60	-3	0.23	2	11.42	-8.43	52	3,004	598	4,644
Susquehanna	72	42	56	-3	0.48	3	19.23	-2.56	70	2,481	700	4,091
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	80	44	60	-3	0.91	1	25.53	3.32	69	2,701	436	4,330
New Castle	84	47	64	2	0.99	1	23.26	3.03	62	3,039	772	4,683
Slippery Rock	84	43	62	2	0.96	2	21.30	-0.32	71	2,838	799	4,479
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	45	62	-2	0.79	2	19.65	0.39	63	2,903	494	4,553
DuBois	77	43	59	-2	1.14	2	18.61	-3.70	72	2,590	501	4,221
Lewistown	80	50	63	-2	0.70	3	16.85	-3.85	56	3,112	468	4,793
Middletown	83	50	65	-2	0.37	2	19.54	-0.99	48	3,603	622	5,304
Prince Gallitzi	75	40	58	-3	0.91	2	20.31	-4.50	60	2,366	424	3,984
Selinsgrove	81	49	61	-3	0.35	2	13.59	-7.87	49	2,993	519	4,662
State College	77	48	61	-2	0.74	2	16.06	-3.40	55	2,952	573	4,610
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	79	46	62	-3	0.43	2	20.73	-1.77	48	3,209	482	4,879
Lehighton	74	46	59	-6	0.29	2	18.66	-3.66	53	2,841	209	4,504
Matamoras	74	43	57	-5	0.52	3	17.40	-5.18	55	2,594	214	4,221
Mt_Pocono	70	42	56	-2	0.48	3	16.09	-7.92	66	2,493	860	4,095
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	48	65	2	0.55	2	17.87	-2.67	65	3,309	886	4,972
Indiana_PA	77	45	61	-3	0.89	1	21.69	-2.37	75	2,684	340	4,323
Myersdale	78	40	57	-7	0.78	1	16.20	-7.14	64	2,129	-127	3,714
Mount Pleasant	81	43	62	1	0.68	1	19.46	-4.93	55	2,833	786	4,469
Pittsburgh Intl	81	45	64	0	0.46	3	17.99	-1.35	62	3,224	688	4,883
Connellsville	85	49	64	-1	1.28	2	21.77	-1.05	69	3,138	556	4,797
Waynesburg	84	43	62	-2	1.08	1	18.30	-2.87	50	2,930	578	4,570
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	83	47	64	-3	1.04	2	14.05	-5.24	42	3,342	429	5,023
Everett	81	45	61	-3	0.76	2	17.25	-1.47	58	2,736	335	4,381
Hanover	84	44	63	-4	0.54	2	15.28	-4.01	49	3,293	380	4,971
Harrisburg_AP	83	50	64	-3	0.34	3	22.09	1.56	52	3,487	499	5,181
South Mountain	79	43	60	-3	0.37	2	14.22	-5.04	50	2,689	287	4,325
York	83	44	63	-4	0.28	2	17.39	-3.35	52	3,227	328	4,900
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	79	50	64	-1	0.47	2	15.27	-6.54	51	3,333	725	5,023
Hamburg	79	50	63	0	0.23	2	19.32	-5.74	56	3,257	872	4,941
West_Chester	81	45	63	-4	0.27	2	20.40	-3.23	43	3,251	357	4,931
Lancaster	82	51	65	-1	0.67	2	15.75	-6.19	51	3,390	633	5,071
Neshaminy Falls	84	49	66	1	0.52	2	12.56	-12.73	48	3,435	711	5,132
New Holland	83	50	65	-1	0.71	2	17.50	-4.44	53	3,387	630	5,067
Philadelphia	86	55	69	2	0.52	2	16.31	-5.14	47	4,075	914	5,792
Philadelphia NE	84	52	67	-2	0.73	2	13.87	-7.58	57	3,795	634	5,503
Reading	81	48	65	0	0.39	2	15.25	-8.20	51	3,599	889	5,298
Sellersville	80	46	63	-3	0.68	2	15.89	-5.92	49	3,095	487	4,759
Willow Grove	84	52	69	5	0.88	3	16.58	-8.71	46	3,570	846	5,269

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
 Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
 Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
 Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
 Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney**

Corn silage is about done being chopped as stalks, and are mostly brown due to drought conditions. Some corn is being shelled and moisture isn't really that high; producers are continuing to harvest. Soybeans plants are changing color and leaves starting to fall off. Some pods aren't filling out with soybeans. Some areas are affected with stink bugs in the soybeans stripping the leaves from the plants. Soil is being prepared for wheat, barley and rye seedings. The moisture received yesterday should help the small grain crops get started. Hay baling is about complete with second cutting mixed hay. Peach harvest has been completed. Apple harvest is still continuing with more varieties being harvested each week. Stink bug is still a concern for fruit crops by sucking the juices out causing damage to the fruit. Vegetable harvest is coming to an end. Some local sweet corn is still available but is close to being done for the year also. Pumpkins were reported earlier as having lower than normal yields, however there are now pumpkins in the fields that you can see being harvested. The price will be higher due to the fewer number available. Overall, the producers in the county are keeping busy trying to harvest 2010 crops and trying to get 2011 small grain crops started.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Good week for fall field work; we received 1 inch of rainfall for the week.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

Many farmers are filling silos and bunkers with silage.

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)**

Most of the work done this week was harvesting corn silage and haylage. Many producers were planting cover crops right after corn was chopped, to protect the soil and take advantage of the organic matter. Cooler, wet weather has helped pastures rebound with some fall regrowth.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Apple crop is doing fairly well, with harvest past the 50% level in most orchards; some are even nearly finished as it appears that the harvest will continue to be at least 2 weeks ahead of normal. Yields are less than expected and some sun burning is affecting the fresh market quality. Corn harvest for grain is now well under way in southern part of the county. Silage harvest has been completed with tonnage off at least 50%. Grain

yields are more likely 30 % of normal.

### **INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff**

Well, Friday we finally got 0.80" of rain in the county but it probably was not in time to help the corn and soybeans out. They both have matured without rain for the last month. Just waiting for a frost maybe towards the end of the month to finish them both off and ready them for harvest. Just doing some trimming and mowing around the fields on the farm this week. Everyone have a great and safe work week!

### **JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler**

Received some much needed rain.

### **LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger**

Much needed rainfall has come at a critical time for fall vegetable crops. Sweet corn harvest has been completed by most growers and harvest of pumpkins and winter squash is in full swing. Apple harvest continues ahead of schedule. The late tomato crop harvest is progressing nicely with strong demand.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

Silage harvesting kicked into high gear this week with fields being harvested quickly with the ideal weather. We received 1.3 inches of rain this week. Corn and soybeans are drying quickly and yields are expected to be good to excellent and maturing ahead of schedule. We are still in the need of more rain.

### **SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr**

Scattered showers the week of September 12th did not provide the relief needed in Schuylkill County. The weather is great for conducting harvest activities but soil moisture levels are very low. Late planted vegetables are struggling to reach maturity prior to the onset of cold weather.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

Lack of rain is causing the corn and soybeans to ripen early. Very little green left in the corn and the soybeans are turning yellow with some leaf drop. Fall seeded alfalfa is emerging fairly well. Silo filling is near complete, as well as the barley seeding. Pastures are providing very little feed. The main activities for the week were silo filling, hay making, and seeding.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 19, 2010**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	29	32	35
Corn, dough	92	89	96
Corn, dent	84	68	82
Corn, mature	47	17	43
Corn silage, harvested	78	41	62
Barley, planted	42	22	27
Barley, emerged	10	6	10
Tobacco, harvested	93	87	89
Potatoes, harvested	43	69	53
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	82	40	51
Apples, harvested	61	47	46
Grapes, harvested *	15	0	7

\* Revision made to harvested percentage.

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 19, 2010**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	19	21	43	12
Soybeans	5	14	19	50	12
Quality of hay made	1	6	15	47	31
Pasture	27	19	40	11	3

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States  
 Department of Agriculture  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Field Office  
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203  
 Harrisburg PA 17112

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA  
 PERMIT NO. G-38